

Social Impact of Urban Planning: Challenges of the 21st Century: Shrinking Cities, Aging Societies

Abstract

Most developed countries are confronted with two phenomena, which are closely linked with each other: Aging societies and shrinking cities. Especially Germany and Japan do have rapidly aging societies.

In Germany public debate on aging society focuses very much on the impact on social systems such as pension schemes, health insurance and labour market. But only little attention is paid to all questions of living including infrastructure, mobility, accessibility, personal services, organization of public space and, not at least, shrinking cities.

Only a few German cities have a growing population, most cities lose people due to high mortality rate and to ongoing trend of sub urbanization. Despite the discovery of such urban people like the yuppies (young urban professionals) in the eighties, the new urbanites in the nineties and the woopies (well-off older people) today, most people prefer to live in suburbia.

In my contribution I will try to highlight four items:

- Chances and limitations of urban planning from a sociological point of view
- Historical development of cities and population
- Aging society and shrinking cities: facts and figures
- Japanese-German research: Common goals

Curriculum Vitae

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- Diploma in Sociology (1995)
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Present Position:

- Managing director of the research unit "labour in construction sector" at University of Applied Science Dortmund, Faculty of Architecture
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Previous Employment:

- Associate professor in sociology at University of Applied Science Dortmund, Faculty of Architecture (2002-2004)
- Lecturer in sociology at University of Applied Sciences Dortmund, Faculty of Architecture (2000-2002)
- Senior Researcher at the research unit "labour in construction industry" at University of Applied Sciences, Dortmund (1998-2002)

Awards:

- Postdoctoral fellowship granted by JSPS (Oct 2004-Jan 2005).
- Award "work and life", 2004, University of Osnabrueck.
- Award "best teaching", 2003, University of Applied Science, Dortmund.
- PhD. scholarship granted by Hans Boeckler Foundation (1999-2001).

Field of specialization:

Sociology of the construction sector in Europe: qualification, work organization, structure, national and international market. / Sociology of cities and regions: development of cities and regions, actors on local, regional and national level, city management.

